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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

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VOL. 3. NO. 20 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1913. WHOLE NO. 124

THE FIGHT STILL ON.

Steubenville, Ohio, Aug. 16.—A bitter battle has been waged for some time past between the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and the Philips Sheet and Tin Plate Company, of this city; Weirton, and Clarksburg, W. Va. All of the men left their employment at Clarksburg, completely shutting down the plant. Efforts have been made to run the works in this city, but without very much success. Weirton is owned entirely by the Philips Sheet and Tin Plate Company, and strenuous efforts have been made by the superintendent of the mill and some 300 armed guards to prevent labor meetings being held in Weirton. Some of the labor leaders have been subjected to very severe treatment at the hands of the guards and compelled to leave Weirton in order to save their lives. Appeals have been made to Gov. Hatfield to give the men protection to enable them to hold peaceable meetings in Weirton. As yet the Governor has taken no definite action regarding the appeals of the representatives of the strikers. Early in the week hundreds of strikers from Steubenville proceeded to Weirton, W. Va., hitherto known as "the forbidden city," headed by President John Williams, of the Amalgamated Association, and General Organizer John L. Lewis, of the American Federation of Labor, and several others, to make a demonstration and force their right to hold public meetings for the purpose of bringing out those still remaining at work in the Weirton plant. On reaching the city the procession was met by the Sheriff of the county and fifty deputies for the purpose of preventing attacks on the strikers by hundreds of thugs employed by the company, who are fully armed and ready for any desperate work they may be instructed to do. Addresses were made at large open-air meetings and good results are anticipated. The company has made but poor progress toward the successful running of its three plants, and the representatives of the union are very much encouraged and hope for successful results. The Philips Sheet and Tin Plate Company has applied for a Federal blanket injunction against fifty-four strikers, organizers, and sympathizers. The hearing will probably take place in the near future at Columbus, Ohio.

DEMAND 35 CENTS AN HOUR.

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 16.—The street railway mens' union of this city have demanded that the wages of the motormen and conductors be increased to 35 cents per hour. A petition was presented to the Mayor and Council asking that favorable action be taken on the proposition for increased wages. Favorable reply not having been received, action was taken by a largely attended meeting of the men and a resolution was passed, that unless a settlement was secured by Sunday next a strike would be declared, which would result in tying up all the street car lines in this city. There has been a long standing difference existing between the men and City Council and this action is taken to force a settlement of the grievances and it is believed that by that time a neutral arbitrator may be secured and satisfactory adjustment reached.

GENERAL STRIKE URGED.

Rome, Aug. 16.—The police prevented the posting of the manifesto issued in Milan calling for a general strike. The strike began in a small way, but is expected to become more general, when a monster meeting of workmen will be held. Official reports concerning the strike situation throughout the kingdom are that the workmen will only be able to arrange for a moderate cessation of work. The authorities here are holding the garrison in readiness to repress disorders. Both the Quirinal and the Vatican are strongly guarded. The eighth day of the general strike in Milan was spent by the leaders chiefly in organizing a national general strike. There is a great display of troops in Milan, and the authorities are showing energy in repressing attempts at disorder, even employing the customs guards. Many arrests are being made, the men being charged with incitement to civil war.

LIFE-SAVING DEVICE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 16.—Life saving machine experts will be aided by a device just perfected in the Pittsburgh Station of the United States Bureau of Mines. It is a neck telephone and will permit the speech between the rescuer in the mine and those on surface and the men struggling through smoke and gas. The apparatus has been tested and approved by the government engineers. The device is not so much different from the headgear worn by the average telephone operators. The receiver is strapped from the head aagînst the ear, but the transmitter is a supersensitive plate strapped against the neck.

KILL THIS BILL.

Houston, Tex., Aug. 16.—The Texas Legislature is in special session, and a bill providing for compulsory arbitration will be introduced, the Governor favoring the enactment of such a law. Whether or not such a law would be effective is doubtful, in view of the fact that the recent Mediation bill passed by Congress carries with it a specific provision which precludes any court or legal process being employed to compel any individual to work in accordance with any award arrived at through mediation, conciliation, or arbitration.

DIVIDEND CUT.

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 16.—The Illinois Central Railroad bowed its head to the shop strike and series of floods it has encountered in the past two years by reducing the dividends from 3½ to 2½ per cent. C. H. Markham, president of the company said: "Reasons for reducing the dividend date back to the shop strike in September, 1911, which was followed by floods.

LEAD MINERS VOTE TO STRIKE.

Farmington, Mo., Aug. 16.—By an overwhelming majority the lead miners of St. Francois County, numbering more than 4,000, voted to go on strike, inforcing their demands for a raise in wages of 50 cents a day. Simultaneous with the strike vote the lead companies throughout the district began to close their mines. A long and bitter struggle is anticipated.

10 PER CENT INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employes on the Intercolonial Railway have had their demand for an increase in wages acceded to in the main. An increase equal to about 10 per cent has been granted to the 2,000 men as of March 21.

DEATH TOLL CONTINUES.

Tower City, Pa., Aug. 16.—The total number losing their lives near East Brookside, Pa., which was caused by a recent gas explosion, will reach twenty. Sixteen miners were brought from the mine dead, four having since died from injuries received.

WORKMAN LOSES.

Washington, Aug. 16.—In the case of Morrison vs. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, decided by the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia and reported in the Washington Law Reporter, the plaintiff, a switchman, who was seriously hurt while in the employment of the defendant railroad in February, 1907, brought an action in June, 1908, under the common law to recover for his injuries. Subsequently, in November, 1911, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint, declaring under the employers' liability acts of 1906 and 1908. The amended complaint was demurred to on the ground that no action could be maintained under the act of 1906, unless commenced within one year from the time it occurred, and that the act of 1908 extending such time to two years was not retroactive. In another amendment of the complaint the plaintiff alleged that he had been induced to delay bringing his action until after the lapse of the period of one year by the promise of the defendant to give him employment, and that the original complaint was filed within one year from the refusal of the defendant to keep its promise to employ him. The court sustained a demurrer to the amended complaint, holding that the act of 1906 created a liability where none existed and took away defenses formerly available; that the amendment of the complaint invoking a different rule from that on which the first complaint was based amounted to the commencement of a new action, which was not begun in time, and that the act of 1908 extending to two years the time within which actions might be brought was not retroactive.

SUBSTANTIAL GAINS.

London, Aug. 16.—The Board of Trade "Labor Gazette," in its monthly article on the labor market, says that employment in June continued very good. The changes in rates of wages taking effect in June were all increases and amounted to £8,500 per week on the wages of nearly 264,000 workpeople. The principal changes affected 190,800 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 25,400 iron and steel workers in the north of England, the Midlands, and South Wales, and 15,000 engineers at Coventry. The trade dispute involving about 25,000 metal workers in the Midlands continued in progress throughout the whole of June, but was settled in July. The number of disputes beginning in June was 150, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress during the month was 122,623, as compared with 149,812 in May, 1913, and 135,929 in June, 1912. The estimated number of working days lost during disputes in June was 1,718,200, as compared with 1,088,800 in May, 1913, and 1,505,700 in June, 1912. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent in the number of workpeople employed, and an increase of 2.3 per cent in wages paid.

MANGANESE STRIKE.

Washington, D. C. Aug. 16.—The shipping of Manganese ore from the Caucasus has been practically stopped as the result of a strike now in force. An increase by 20 to 50 per cent in their rate of pay is demanded. The demands are as follows: Improvement in barrack accomodations and living quarters at Tchiaturi, reduction of the working day from 10 to 8 hours; the observance of every Saturday afternoon and the afternoon preceding each holiday as a half holiday. As a result of the strike all work at Poti is suspended. The men are still working at Batum, but if the strike is not settled soon this will stop, because there will be no supply of ore. The State railway laborers at Sharopan have not struck, but are now idle on account of the failure of the supply. It is estimated that the State Railway is losing nearly 40,000 rubles ($20,000) per day by reason of the strike.

PRESSMEN'S WAGES RAISED.

Wheeling, W. Va., Aug. 16.—The printing pressmen of this city have secured an increase in wages, taking effect September 1. Pressmen on a seven-day paper, now receiving $3.35 will receive $3.55, those on a six-day paper, now receiving $3.33 1-2 will receive $3.50; cylinder pressmen now receiving $3 will get $3.16 1-2, and platen pressmen now getting $2.50 will get $2.66 2-3. The increase averages 5 per cent. It is the first increase secured by the union in three years, and the new scale will run for three years longer. Negotiations with the daily newspaper publishers of the city have been pending for about a month, and were concluded last week.

RAISE IN WAGES.

Philadelphia, Aug. 16.—The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company has announced a further increase in pay for motormen and conductors, to take effect on September 1. The new scale establishes a maximum rate of 30 cents for platform men on surface lines, while the rate for motormen on the subway-elevated system is 3 cents an hour more. New men on surface lines will receive 25 cents an hour, with 1 cent an hour increase each year until the maximum is reached. On the elevated system new men will start at 28 cents an hour. This will affect between 7,000 and 8,000 men.

MINIMUM WAGE.

Portland, Oreg., Aug. 16.—The Industrial Welfare Commission, of this city, has recommended that all women workers in manufacturing establishments shall receive the minimum weekly wage of not less than $8.64; nine hours a day, or 54 hours a week averaging the maximum employment. This recommendation is made as a result of the passage of a compulsory minimum wage law for women adopted at the recent session of the Legislature.

TELEPHONE STRIKE ENDS.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16.—The strike of the maintenance men and the telephone operators against the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company has been declared off. All the operators who struck will be taken back, as well as will also the girls whose discharge precipitated the strike. Plans for an eight-hour work day and for industrial benefits, which were announced by the company before the strike, will be carried into effect.

INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.

London, England, Aug. 16.—The sixty-second annual report of the Amalgamated Association of Engineers (Machinists) has just been published. The average, beginning 1912, was 127,469. This report shows a total membership of 152,000. The total income from all sources for the year was £482,000, a gain of £95,000 for the year.

NEW UNION OF METAL WORKERS

Concord, N. H., Aug. 16.—A new union of sheet metal workers has been organized in this city, including a large percentage of the men in that industry. The future prospects of the organization are good, and improved conditions are expected in the near future.

TEXT-BOOK CONCERN WORRIED.

Washington, Aug. 16. — The text-book concerns are considerably exercised over the trend of legislation in the various States. During the sessions of the Legislatures meeting early this year, numerous measures were introduced, which, if adopted, would keep the printing of text-books within the borders of the several States. These concerns, to offset this sentiment, are circularizing public officials who have the conduct of the schools in their charge for the purpose of establishing in their minds that text-books printed under the authority of the State means an increased cost. The State government of California has been authorized to print the text-books to be used in the schools of the State, and a California State official says, commenting upon the circulars sent out by the book trust: "The object is palpably to create the impression that State printing is more expensive than that done under private contract, and that "California's system has proven a failure. State printing of text-books has always proven cheaper and better than the other alternative. Even with the extravagance in the bindery of a former administration, the children have been better off, and have been able to get their books cheaper than under the private contract system."

SUFFRAGE FOR ILLINOIS.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 16.—The Legislature of the State has passed a bill partially enfranchising women. The bill gives as large a measure of suffrage to women as the constitution permits the Legislature to grant. Women cannot obtain complete suffrage in Illinois without a constitutional amendment or a constitutional convention. According to the terms of the measure adopted women may vote for all offices which are not mentioned in the constitution of Illinois; that is, they may vote for Presidential electors, Mayors, Aldermen, municipal court judges, and minor local offices. They are permitted also to vote for assessors and members of the board of review. They cannot vote for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and other State offices, members of the Legislature, county or district judges, Representatives or United States Senators. This measure, however, has not yet been signed by the Governor, but it is practically assured that he will sign it. It is now proposed by the women that arrangements be immediately made looking toward a constitutional amendment or a constitutional convention, for the purpose of securing full suffrage.

NO CHILD LABOR LAW.

Augusta, Ga., Aug. 16.—There will be no child labor legislation at the present session of the Georgia Legislature. President Anderson, of the Senate, introduced a measure for the purpose of bettering child labor conditions, but such strenuous opposition developed that the measure has been finally shelved. The Anderson bill proposed to raise the age limit for working children from 12 to 13 years for next year and fixed the age limit for 1915 at 14 years. The measure also provided that all children before being employed should give proof of their ability to read and write. It was thought this measure would be acceptable both to the mill owners and the friends of the children, but such an undercurrent of opposition developed on the part of the manufacturers that the measure was shelved.

ALLEGED LAW VIOLATION.

New York, Aug. 16.—The government filed two suits against the Erie Railroad Company to recover $4,500 because, it is alleged, the railroad company required six telephone and telegraph operators to work twelve hours a day in the towers at Highland Mills, Howells and Sterlington, N. Y. One of the suits is to recover $1,500 for alleged violations of the Federal law limiting hours of service of employes; the other is for $3,000 for thirty alleged violations of the Interstate Commerce Commission's rule requiring railroad companies to report the overworking of employes.

KNITTERS STRIKE.

New York City, Aug. 16.—Recently the workers on knit goods formed an organization, composed of nearly 8,000 people. After the organization had been completed, demands were made for better working conditions and an increase in wages. The demands were 25 per cent increase in wages for those receiving under $10 a week and 15 per cent over $10. A strike has resulted, involving 12,000 of the workers in this industry, including men, women, and girls. Some concessions have been made, and a number of the strikers returned to work, while a large majority of those involved are still continuing the battle for better conditions.

WITHOUT REGULATION.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Street railways are not subject to regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission, according to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company et al. vs. Interstate Commerce Commission et al., in which the court annulled the order of the commission for a 5-cent reduction in the fare from Omaha, Nebr., to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The court said that in using the word "railroad" in the interstate commerce law Congress had not intended to apply it to a "local" line, such as a street railway was essentially.

STATE BRANCH PROPOSED.

Denver, Colo., Aug. 16.—A proposition to establish a building trades department of the Colorado State Federation of Labor is to be submitted at the annual convention in Trinidad. It is to be patterned after the Building Trades section of the A. F. of L., although it is not asked to have separate offices. The promotors want it under control and directions of the State Federation officials. If the plan is adopted it is proposed to organize all the building trades in all sections into a State building trades branch.

TONNAGE INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The production of coal in 1912 reached a total of 534,466,580 short tons, valued at the mines at $694,060,871, according to a statement just issued by the United States Geological Survey. The United States is at present contributing 40 per cent of the world's supply of coal and uses 99 per cent of its own production. The gained output of 1912 over 1911 was 13,686,445 tons and the increase in value $69,040,960.

INCREASED WAGES.

Boston, Aug. 16.—Beginning with September 1, the blacksmiths and helpers employed by this city will have their wages increased 25 cents a day in accordance with the promise made by Mayor John F. Fitzgerald to John M. Tobin, International Vice President of the Blacksmiths' Union. The present wage of the blacksmiths is $3.50 for an eight-hour day, and the helpers are receiving $2.50 per day.

MINER'S VICTORY.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 16.—The Senatorial investigation of the West Virginia situation has been so effective that peace has been restored in the coal fields of Cabin Creek, Paint Creek, and part of the New River district. Martial law has been withdrawn; civil law has been restored, and mine workers are free to purchase where they please. An average of 10 per cent increase in wages has been allowed. A nine-hour day has been established. The check-off system will be put into operation. Check weighmen have been arranged for, and complete resognition of the United Mine Workers of America secured. The main issue, namely, that of the abolition of the Baldwin and other private guards, has been settled to the entire satisfaction of the Mine Workers. Gov. Hatfield has enforced the order of the Legislature of the State against a continuation of the old "guard" system. As a result of agreement, 40,000 miners became part of the United Mine Workers' Union.

THE SENATOR PROTESTED.

Washington, Aug. 16.—A petition from the strikers at Calumet, Mich., asking the Senate to take cognizance of the labor troubles there as it did of the West Virginia coal strike stirred the ire of Senator Townsend of Michigan. The petition was presented by Senator Martine, who said: "Except for a personal compliment, the petition is all right." Later Senator Townsend came into the chamber. He declared the petition a reflection on the Democratic Governor of the State, and characterized its presentation as inappropriate and unwarranted. He stated the Governor was investigating the situation and should be allowed to proceed unmolested. Senator Martine was prevailed upon to withdraw the petition for the time being, at the request of Senator Simmons, who desired to proceed with the tariff debate.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The little schoolhouse on the hillside draws more children to its doors than the city school in a mill town. The latest school reports for fifty-three districts in North Carolina, with nearly 13,000 children of school age, show that in the mill towns only one-half of the children enroll in school; in country districts three-fourths of the children enroll. In two small mill districts the percentage of enrollment is as high as the rural average, but still far below the percentage in nine rural districts, where more than nine-tenths of the children are enrolled. North Carolina has this year passed a law to compel all children under twelve years of age to attend school. The National Child Labor Committee points out that so long as the child labor law permits children of twelve to work in the mills, the new school attendance law will not affect the lower enrollment and school attendance in mill districts.

PEONAGE IN LOUISIANA.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Mrs. Nina Lane McBride, daughter of Senator Lane of Oregon, delivered an address Friday evening before the Study Club on "Economics," at Ingram Memorial Church. Mrs. McBride said she was in the thick of the timber workers' war in Louisiana last year, and declared labor conditions in that state to be a disgrace to civilization. She said it was the custom in Louisiana to foster disagreement between the white and colored races, out of which arose competition between them, and consequently a low price for labor. The system, she said, was practically one of peonage.

SHOE CLERKS MAY STRIKE.

New York City, Aug. 16.—At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Shoe Clerks' Union, held in this city, it was decided to strike unless certain concessions could be secured by the 5,000 members of the union. The date of the strike has not been definitely settled, but unless an agreement is reached it may be put into effect without further notice. The demands are for a twelve-hour workday and recognition of the union. The clerks stated that they were now working fourteen hours a day as a rule.

STRIKE VOTE TAKEN.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16.—More than 90 per cent of the cloak and skirt makers voted to go out on strike in this city. The union officials would not say whether an order to strike immediately would be put into effect or that they would wait for further developments. No definite action will be taken for at least a week. In the meantime every effort will be made to secure an amicable adjustment. This action is awaiting the approval of the International officers.

FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Toronto, Can., Aug. 16.—For the first time in its history, an accredited fraternal delegate from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will attend the meeting of the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain, which meets during the month of September. P. M. Draper, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Congress, will carry the greetings of the Canadian trades unionists to their fellow-workers in the Old Land.

NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 16.—A new organization of Flour and Cereal Mill Packers, No. 14520, has just been completed. With the completion of the organization, an increase of 25 cents per day has been granted, covering all mills over which they have jurisdiction. As soon as they have acquired sufficient strength they will make a demand for the eight-hour day.

ESTABLISH MINIMUM WAGE.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16.—Local company manufacturing women's clothing has announced that it will establish a minimum wage of $7 per week for girls. The company employs 400 girls and the new scale is the result of an investigation into the wages of women by a committee of the Missouri State senate. Beginners are paid $5.50 for the first two weeks of service.

REFUSED THEM A HEARING.

Boston, Mass., Aug. 16.—Several hundred strikers in the Hyde Park manufacturing plants, controlled by Governor Eugene N. Foss, proceeded to the State House and demanded an immediate hearing of their grievances by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. The chairman of the board refused to receive the appeal. Counsel for the strikers then appealed to Governor Foss to intercede in their behalf and to have the matter taken up by the board. The Governor absolutely refused to have anything to do with the matter and it is doubtful now whether any public hearing will be given to the complaints of the men, as it is apparent that influence will be used to prevent such a settlement being secured. The Governor refused to treat with the men except as individuals and a communication to that effect was written to the strikers. After hearing it read and discussing its contents, it was burned up and the ashes returned to the Governor. He has ignored entirely the existence of the union. These men have been on strike several weeks and have used every available means to secure an adjustment of their grievances.

WHAT CO-OPERATION DOES.

Rotterdam, Holland, Aug. 16.—There are 735 co-operative credit and loan banks in the Netherlands, supported by three central banks, which are again affiliated with The Netherlands Bank. There are 1,436 co-operative agricultural societies, with a membership of 156,000. In 1910 the then existing 1,101 societies bought for their 91,000 members $10,000,000 worth of artificial manure, feeding stuff, and seed, controlled by government stations. Among the co-operative manufactories, the creameries are taking the lead; out of 950 creameries nearly 700 are working on the co-operative plan. In 1910, 66,600,000 pounds of butter were produced by co-operative and only 27,500,000 pounds by private manufactories. There are thirteen co-operative potato-flour and twenty beet-sugar manufactories in the Netherlands. The mutual accident insurance for Dutch farm and garden laborers is also of importance. In the beginning of the present year 12,000 employers, paying annually $7,200,000 in wages, had insured their laborers.

BUFFALO DISPUTE ENDS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 16.—The recent finding of the Board of Arbitration which was appointed to dispose of the dispute between the International Railway Company and a committee representing the Street Carmen's Union was early in the week rejected. The claim was made that certain specific grievances were not dealt with at all by a majority of the board in its findings. The length of time named in the agreement was unsatisfactory to the men, as it would compel some of them to serve nine years before reaching the maximum wage rate. The men having refused to accept the findings of a majority of the Board of Arbitrators, instructed their Committee to seek conference with the president of the company. A final agreement was reached settling the dispute, and reduced the life of the contract of the union from five to three years, and it was also agreed that the barn men and shop men would receive increase in wages, which had been denied by a majority of the Arbitration Board.

RAG PICKERS STRIKE.

New York City, Aug. 16.—Strike of the rag-pickers of this city has been on for the last few days, as a result of the refusal of the employers to recognize the union and pay increased wages. These people work in junk shops, sorting rags and waste paper, and the number employed in the city is close to 7,000. Almost one-half of these are compelled to work in basements and under very insanitary conditions. They are demanding fifty-four hours a week, 15 per cent increase in pay, recognition of the union, sanitary shops, and pay for overtime. New York is the center of the rag-picking industry. Most of the clippings and assorted rags are sent to the cloth mills of Massachusetts, where they are woven, along with other material, into a cheap grade of clothing.

TO STANDARDIZE DEVICES.

Seattle, Aug. 16.—The new labor commissioner is just getting under way a movement for the protection of lives and limbs of the working people throughout the State. It is announced that a meeting will be called of all inspectors and representatives of the industrial interests of the State with a view to establishing a standardization of safeguarding devices on machinery. There are to be tables compiled for use by the various factory inspectors and it is declared that as soon as the compilation is finished there will be on hand an accurate record showing just what machines and under what circumstances certain machines are hazardous or extra hazardous.

SUSTAINS WORKMEN.

Washington, Aug. 16. — The Supreme Court of the United States held, in the case of Pedersen vs. Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company, reversing the judgment of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Third circuit, that an ironworker employed in repairing a railroad bridge used by the railroad company in both interstate and intrastate commerce, was engaged in interstate commerce and could recover under the Federal employers' liability act for injuries occasioned by being struck by a local intrastate train on another bridge similarly used, while he was carrying rivets for use in his work.

TEN PER CENT INCREASE.

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 16.—Owing to an action by their employers, who refused to agree to their request for a 10 per cent increase in wages, 800 men and women, members of the Cloak Workers' Union, quit work, closing down practically all the manufacturing concerns in this city. A large number of shops have already made concessions, and the employes have returned to work, but a score of the large shops still remain idle.

REFUSE TO ACCEPT.

Boston, Mass., Aug. 16.—James Duncan, First Vice President of the American Federation of Labor, has been strongly indorsed by the Democrats for nomination for Lieutenant Governor. It is believed that his selection would add greatly to the strength of the entire ticket. When the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Duncan he refused to accept the nomination.

RESULT OF BOOSTING.

Worcester, Mass., Aug. 16.—The "Boosting Worcester-made Cigars" campaign, inaugurated by the cigarmakers several months ago, has produced splendid results, and the committee of the campaign in charge will continue its propaganda for the use of its label. Some of the shops show an increased production of nearly 1,000 per cent as a result of the good work done.

CABOOSE LAW CONSTITUTIONAL.

Washington, Aug. 16. — The Indiana legislature in 1911 passed a law prohibiting railroads after June 14, 1914, from using cabooses less than twenty-four feet in length, exclusive of platforms, and which were not equipped with two four-wheeled trucks, and did not conform to other specifications, including door, grab iron, and step requirements. The Supreme Court of Indiana held this law constitutional in the case of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company vs. The State. It was contended that the act would occasion unreasonable expense to the railroads by requiring the destruction of a large amount of property without any incident benefit to the public. The court said that the judicial tribunals had, as a rule, nothing to do with the wisdom or expediency of legislative measures or the cost of compliance with them, though they might interfere in extreme cases; that ordinarily the courts would not attempt fine distinctions as to the matter of the reasonableness or unreasonableness of a statute; that it must be plain that no circumstances could justify an act before the courts were authorized to interpose, and that the legislative decision that the facts warranted the passage of the law could not be attacked collaterally by evidence of witnesses to show its unreasonableness where it was within the scope of legislative control.

ANOTHER DECISION.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The New York Court of Appeals held, in the case of Ewen vs. Thompson-Starrett Company et al., that a subcontractor doing the granite work on a municipal building in the city of New York is not required by the labor law to pay to his quarrymen and stonecutters getting out materials for the building in the State of Maine the prevailing rate of wages in New York City, such quarreymen and stonecutters not being employed "on, about, or upon" the construction of the building within the intent of the act. The court said: "If New York City wages had to be paid in the manufacture and preparation of all materials, no matter where the work might be done, the result upon the vast undertakings of a city like New York would be almost prohibitive. If the act is to be thus construed, it should have been entitled "an act to discourage the undertaking of public works."

THIS LAW INOPERATIVE.

Fitchburg, Mass., Aug. 16.—The law of 1909 providing that women and minors shall not be employed in mercantile establishments for more than fifty-eight hours a week does not apply to bookkeepers, stenographers, and others in similar clerical positions, according to an opinion given by Attorney General James M. Swift to Policeman J. H. Whitney. His decision is based upon the proposition that in order to regulate the hours of women and minors the legislature must find that occupation in which they are engaged is likely to be injurious to their health, and he decdes that such conditions do not exist in the offices of merchantile establishments to such an extent as to bring these occupations within the power of the legisture to regulate.

IS NOT A RELEASE.

Washington, Aug. 16. — The New York Court of Appeals held, in the case of Colaizzi vs. Pennsylvania Railroad Company, reported in the New York Law Journal, that an employe of the railroad company who became a member of its relief department, and in his application for membership agreed that an acceptance by him of benefits from the relief fund for an injury should operate as a release of all claims for damages against the company arising therefrom, was bound by such agreement, and that where after his injury he had accepted the benefits from the relief department fund, he could not thereafter maintain an action against the company for the injury.

INCREASED EARNINGS.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The gross earnings of the railways of the United States for the past six months have been larger than for any preceding period in the history of railroading. For the first time the record established in the first six months of 1910 was exceeded, and by a very large margin. The gain in gross earnings for the last half year over the corresponding period of 1912 was $136,007,000, and over the first half of 1910, $132,000,000. This year's gain over last was 10.16 per cent, the total receipts having been $1,470,000,000 as against the $1,334,000,000 earned from January to July in 1912.

TRANSFER DRIVERS WIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 16.—An increase of $1 per week to all drivers has been conceded to Transfer Drivers, No. 600, by the Team Owners' Association. Important concessions regarding the amount of overtime to be worked by the men were also gained. Both sides made concessions, and peace was assured when the union agreed to accept the terms given above.

THE CALUMET SITUATION.

Calumet, Mich., Aug. 16.—The situation of the ore miners' strike seems to have developed little new during the last week. Representatives of the State, and also of the government, are reported to be taking an active interest toward securing a settlement of the dispute. The companies, however, have taken a determined stand in opposition to making any concessions toward bettering the condition of the men.

CHURCH FOR WORKMEN.

New York, Aug. 16.—The Presbytery of New York has purchased the Labor Temple, Second Avenue and Fourteenth Street, from the Greenwich Presbyterian Church for $300,000. The Extension Committee of the Presbytery plans to institute a regular Sunday morning service at the temple for the benefit of working men. Sufficient funds have been raised through private subscriptions to conduct the temple for a year.

NINE-HOUR DAY SECURED.

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 16.—The nine-hour day has been secured by the machinists employed by the Toledo Machine and Tool Company, and also a half-holiday. Time and half time will be paid for all work over fifty-four hours. These improved conditions were secured without a strike.

GET MORE MONEY.

Ottawa, Can., Aug. 16.—Bookbinders of this city have just ratified the new wage scale, which carries with it increases ranging from a dollar and a half up to four dollars per week. The agreement will stand for four years.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Carlsbad, Aug. 16.—The most significant international labor congress yet held has recently concluded its labors in this city. The International Congress of Mine Workers was represented by 148 delegates, who represent an original constituency of 1,374,000 miners. England was represented by 22 delegates, who spoke for 603,000; the German and Prussian Poles had 22 delegates, representing 175,000; France with 15 delegates, representing 40,000; Austrians were represented by 28 delegates, having a following of 14,620; Belgium had 7 delegates with 40,408 organized miners; 400,000 American miners were represented by 3 delegates, and the Dutch were represented by 1 delegate, who spoke for 1,000 miners. The Municipal Congress refused the use of the Assembly Hall of this city for the meeting of the National Labor Congress. Mr. Smillie, the English delegate, reported that the wages of the English miners had been increased 37½ per cent during the period of the six months preceding the meeting. The strike last year was over the organization and had benefited the union to the extent of 100,000 new members. The election resulted in the selection of Mr. Ashton as secretary of the international committee, and Mr. Abraham was chosen treasurer. The international secretaries elected were Ashton, of England; Hue, of Germany; Jarolim, of Austria; Elfers, of Holland, and Green, of America. The following were elected members: Maroille of Belgium, Harvey and Smillie, of England; Sachse, Witt, Schmidt, and Jokobowicz, of Germany; Elbert and Cinge, of Austria; White, Hays, and Moyer, of the United States; Canot and Calouevaert, of Belgium; Barthuel, Camendin, and Quentin, of France. The congress decided unanimously in favor of an international eight-hour working day for the miners.

INCREASED IMMIGRATION.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 16.—The immigration bulletin just issued by the government gives the total number of immigrants for the year of 1913 at 1,197,892. This figure is the second largest number of immigrants coming into this country in one year. For the year of 1907 there were 1,285,349. By races it gives those exceeding 40,000, as follows: Croatian and Slavonian, 42,499; English, 55,522; Hebrew, 101,303; Southern Italian, 231,613; Polish 174,365; Russian, 51,472. It will be observed by the foregoing figures that the Southern Italian immigration continues to increase, while that of the Hebrew is considerable under its previous record, which was 153,784 in 1906. Those trades receiving the largest accession to their ranks were the carpenters with 1,535; clerks and accountants, 1,425; dressmakers, 6,411; masons, 7,377; miners, 9,510; seamstresses, 11,578; tailors, 22,934; farm laborers, 320,105; laborers, 220,992; merchants and dealers, 13,919; servants, 140,218. There were debarred for various causes during the year 1913, 19,938, an increase of 3,900 over the year 1912.

TO ABOLISH CONTRACTORS.

New York City, Aug. 16.—The Neckwear Makers' Union has decided by referendum vote to prepare for a general strike. It is the opinion of the majority of the members that the only way to better their conditions is to have a general walkout if the employers fail to grant their demands. What the men want is the abolition of the contractors, whom they consider to be the worst dealers in the trade. They also want an eight-hour day and the establishment of a standard for a minimum scale of wages. Large numbers have been added to the membership of the organization recently.

PAINTERS' CAMPAIGN.

Toronto, Aug. 16.—An organizer for the Brotherhood of Painters is engaged in an organizing campaign in Ontario, and his efforts are meeting with success. The craft has been largely unorganized in most of the centers west of Toronto and Hamilton, the London and Stratford locals having lapsed several years ago. These local unions have been reorganized and Painters in other places in this section of the country are talking organization. The outlook now is that the Painters will be organized to a greater extent than ever before at the close of the campaign.

LONDON LABOR TEMPLE.

Washington, Aug. 16.—A dispatch from across the water says that London is soon to have one of the finest labor temples in the world. Plans have been approved for a building to be constructed at a cost of nearly $1,000,000, the building to have offices to be used as the general headquarters of the various national organizations, and also containing a large auditorium capable of seating 4,000 persons. It is stated that all important conventions and congresses of the United Kingdom will be held in the new auditorium.

STRIKE MAY BE CALLED.

Huntington, W. Va., Aug. 16.—J. F. Riley, grand vice president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, has arrived in this city to confer with clerks employed by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway here, relative to grievances of the clerks all over the line and the possibility of a strike. It is said that unless the railroad reinstates clerks recently discharged from the Cincinnati offices a strike will be declared, calling out all the clerks from Newport News to Cincinnati.

PRESSMEN ON STRIKE.

New York, Aug. 16.—Twenty-two union pressmen and press feeders employed by the plant of Doubleday, Page & Co. have gone on strike. Discrimination against union men is charged. Several men have recently been discharged without cause, but investigation has developed the fact that an effort was being made by the representatives of the company to dispose of all the union men in its employ. This company has been endeavoring to run an open shop for some time past.

WIDOWS' PENSION.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Seventeen States have adopted Widows' Pension laws. Since 1908, when the movement began, to date, August 16, 1913, Mothers' Pension laws have been passed in the following States: California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, and Washington, including two cities—Milwaukee and St. Louis.

BOX MAKERS' ORGANIZATION.

New York City, Aug. 16.—The paper box makers' union of this city, heretofore has been composed almost exclusively of Hebrews, and arrangements have been made for a number of meetings, one of which will be held this week to organize the Gentile workers into a union, and preparations are now being made to demand higher wages and shorter hours.